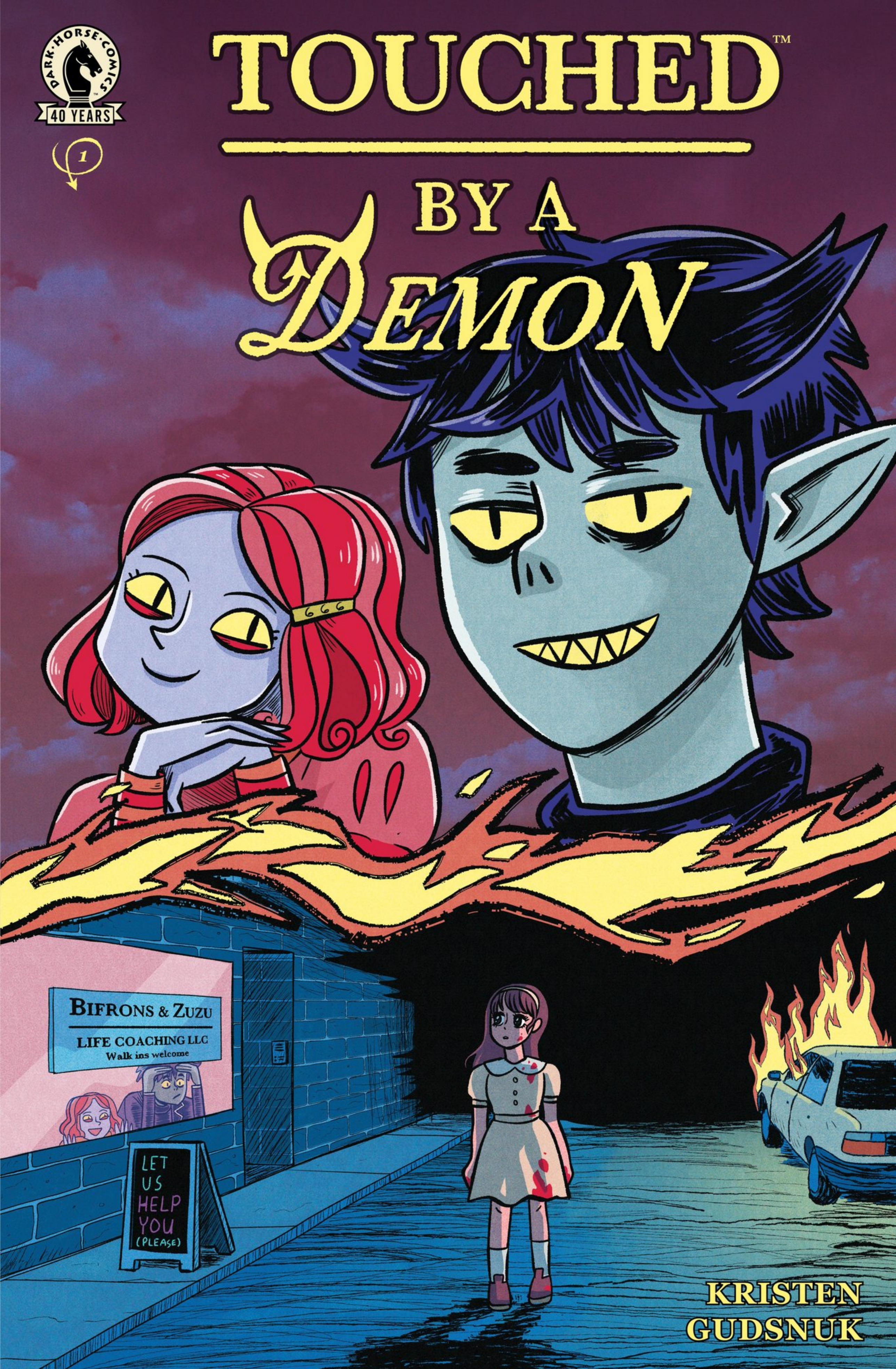
DARK HORSE COMICS
40 YEARS

1

TOUCHED BY A DEMON™



KRISTEN GUDSNUK

BIFRONS & ZUZU

LIFE COACHING LLC

WALK-INS WELCOME!

WE ARE EAGER TO

fix your life

AND

save your soul

TOUCHED™ BY A *DEMON*

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY

KRISTEN GUDSNUK

PUBLISHER
MIKE RICHARDSON

EDITOR
BRETT ISRAEL

ASSISTANT EDITOR
TARA MCCARRON

DESIGNER
REBECCA XIE

DIGITAL ART TECHNICIAN
CONLEY PRESLER

PREPRESS TECHNICIAN
ALEXANDRA DEVON

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When I was happy, I didn't even know it, because I had no concept of despair.

And although my degradation has been more complete than that of any other creature in this wretched city...

At least I was architect of my own fall.

BIFRONS & ZU
LIFE COACHING LLC
Walk-ins welcome

FREE
LIFE COACH
SESSIONS

Not like this young lady.

& ZUZU
OACHING LLC
k-ins welcome

REE
LIFE
OACH

OPE

BIFRONS & ZUZU
LIFE COACHING LLC

OH MY GOD! ***BOSS!*** WE'VE GOT A CLIENT!

HI...

"MODERN ART"

SELF HELP
Lorrie Moore

Girl, Wipe Your Butt

WELCO
HUM

Wendy Asklepios, age sixteen.

FIDGET

I KNOW I'M SUPPOSED TO JUST BE HAPPY I'M ALIVE. AND BE HAPPY THAT I CAN HELP MY SISTER. BUT...

IS IT WRONG...

FRONS & ZUZU
FE COACHING LLC

"MODERN ART"

PICK

IS IT WRONG IF I ***HATE*** HER?

WELL, FIRSTLY, THANK YOU, WENDY, FOR COMING IN AND TRUSTING ***B&Z LIFE COACHING*** WITH YOUR VERY DEPRESSING PROBLEMS.

WE ARE EAGER TO FIX YOUR LIFE AND SAVE YOUR SOUL.

OUR ***FIRST*** STEP IS TO, UHHH...

?!?!

TURN

SHRUG

YOU'RE OUR FIRST CLIENT. WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING.

...

OOPS

ELAINE HERE, CALLING IN REMOTELY. MY COLLEAGUE MISSPOKE--WE ***ABSOLUTELY*** KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING, GIRL!

Ping

YOU'RE IN ***GREAT*** HANDS, BABE. OUR FIRST STEP IS THAT MY ASSOCIATES, FRONS AND ZUZU, WILL ***PERSONALLY*** OBSERVE YOUR HOME SITUATION.

IN DISGUISE!

ABSOLUTELY. WE'RE MASTERS OF DISGUISE.

AFTER THEIR ASSESSMENT, WE'LL MAKE YOU A PERSONALLY TAILORED LIFE PLAN! FOR ***FREE!***

THANK YOU...

SoullessCycle

lululemon

SHITTY BIKE

NICE PLACE.

Gamba Juice

SCEPTER CITY TAXI

TAXI

WELCOME. COME ON IN, GUYS.

MOTHER, FATHER--

35

THESE ARE MY NEW...TENNIS INSTRUCTORS.

WHY DO YOU NEED INSTRUCTION? I DON'T REMEMBER YOU BEING PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN TENNIS.

I MADE STATE SEMIFINALS IN TENNIS LAST YEAR, MOM.

BUT WHAT IF YOU GET HURT? IT COULD COMPROMISE THE PROCEDURE.

CARDIO IS GOOD FOR RED BLOOD CELL PRODUCTION, DARLING.

WELL, IN THAT CASE-- CARRY ON!

SO, YOUR PARENTS ARE EMOTIONALLY DISTANT.

CLICK

...BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY REALLY CARE ABOUT YOUR RED BLOOD CELLS, AND BY ASSOCIATION, *YOU!*

HA. THAT'S FUNNY.

really?!

THE REASON THEY CARE ABOUT MY HEALTH IS BECAUSE OF *HER.*

STEP STEP STEP

steve apple

Art

MY SISTER, AIMEE.

THEY NEED MY BLOOD FOR *HER.*

Don't Die

BEEP. BEEP.

MY BONE MARROW. MY KIDNEY.

WHEN I WAS BORN, THE FIRST THING THEY DID WAS HARVEST THE STEM CELLS FROM MY UMBILICAL CORD AND GIVE THEM TO HER.

WAHHH

She's going to be okay...

Aimee...

THEY CALL ME A SAVIOR SIBLING. I WAS CREATED TO DONATE MYSELF TO THE ONE THEY REALLY LOVE.

BIT BY BIT, PIECE BY PIECE REMOVED TO SUSTAIN THEIR PERFECT AIMEE.

SHE'S BEEN LIKE THIS ALL MY LIFE. HALF ALIVE.

You're going to knock out her IV!!

Pway?

roll

I WISH I COULD HAVE HAD A REAL SISTER.

CLK

Wendy's Room

I *TRIED* TO GET MY PARENTS' ATTENTION.

TO EARN THEIR LOVE THROUGH ACHIEVEMENT.

THEY DIDN'T CARE. SO I GAVE UP.

#1 SSB MELEE

TENNIS THE MENACE 2024

SPORTS?

PASSED THE MARSH-MALLOW TEST

#1

CHESS GRANDMA STER

MATH

SISTER YOU'RE A POET

BEST BEHAVED CHILD · 2019

WENDY ASKLEPIOS SPELING BEE WHINER

CUTEST SMILE 202

THE ONLY TIME THEY'VE EVER SHOWN ME AFFECTION IS WHEN I'M HURT.

WHEN WE DO TRANSFUSIONS AND I'M WEAK FROM BLOOD LOSS, FOR A BRIEF MOMENT IT'S LIKE WE'RE A HAPPY FAMILY.

#1 CACTUS

WHEN I DONATED MY KIDNEY, I WAS SO AFRAID...

BUT THEY WERE SO SWEET TO ME WHEN I WAS BEDRIDDEN. LIKE WHOLLY DIFFERENT PEOPLE. IT WAS THE ONE TIME I CAN REMEMBER BEING ACTUALLY HAPPY.

UNTIL I GOT BETTER. IT WAS LIKE THEY RESENTED ME FOR BEING HEALTHY.

I USED TO WISH AIMEE WOULD GET BETTER AND I'D GET SICK. THEN *I* COULD BE THE ONE WHO'S LOVED.

ISN'T THAT MESSED UP?

THAT *IS* SUPER MESSED UP.

nods

...OF *THEM!*

YOU DESERVE TO BE LOVED WITHOUT HAVING TO REMOVE PIECES OF YOURSELF.

SINCERITY~

THEY WANT MY LIVER NEXT. THE OPERATION IS IN THREE WEEKS. AND I'M SO SCARED.

THEY SHOULD JUST LET YOUR POOR SISTER DIE ALREADY. IT'D BE A MERCY.

SERIOUSLY! AND WHY STOP THERE? THE PARENTS DESERVE DEATH, TOO. WHAT DESPICABLE HUMANS.

PLUS, YOU'D INHERIT THIS ***FABULOUS MANSION***, AND WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE TO GET YOUR LIVER REMOVED.

YES!

YEAH. IF ONLY, FRONS.

IF ONLY.

...WELL, THIS HAS BEEN ***QUITE*** ILLUMINATING, WENDY.

PLEASE COME BACK TO OUR OFFICES TOMORROW FOR YOUR PERSONALLY TAILORED LIFE COACH PLAN.

YOU'RE LEAVING?

WE'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW!

HUG!

I WISH ***YOU*** WERE MY SISTER, ZUZU. YOU'RE SO CUTE AND SWEET.

AW SHUCKS...

SIGH...

A TOAST!

CLINK

HOT SAUCE

HOT SAUCE

OUR VERY FIRST CLIENT!

SO IT WENT WELL?

GLUG

GLUG

FREE

THAT GIRL HAS HAD A VERY HARD LIFE, FOR A FABULOUSLY WEALTHY, CONVENTIONALLY ATTRACTIVE HUMAN.

BUT I THINK WE CAN ACTUALLY, MEANINGFULLY, HELP HER.

REDEMPTION!

TO BEING UNSMITED!

HEY, ELAINE, WHAT ARE HUMANS SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN THEIR PARENTS ARE MEDICALLY ABUSING THEM?

HMM. I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS ALIVE, THERE WERE SEVERAL PROMINENT CHILD STARS WHO WERE EMANCIPATED FROM THEIR PARENTS FOR FINANCIAL ABUSE.

MAYBE WE CAN HELP WENDY EMANCIPATE HERSELF?

CAN WE ADOPT HER?

BUT ZUZU, YOU'VE ONLY JUST MET HER!

PLEEEEASE, FRONS? ***PLEEEASE??***

BIFRONS & ZUZU

LIFE COACH

Pleease

ha ha

Hell, last Antichristmas Eve (June 24)

PLEEEEASE, FRONS!

I DON'T WANT TO GO TO THE PARTY!

WE *HAVE* TO BE THERE, AS DISTASTEFUL AS THAT IS.

WE NEED TO MAKE MAMMON UNDERSTAND HOW CUTTING EDGE OUR NEW WORK IS.

AHHHH

HELP

OH GOD WHYYY

AND I'LL LOOK LIKE A LOSER IF I SHOW UP ALONE.

BUT... BELETH WILL BE THERE.

SIGH...

POOF

BOOB PLEASE

I CAN'T GO TO THE PARTY! I'M JUST A WITTLE BABY...

I'm supposed to be Zuzu's boss, and a ferocious demon of Hell, but I just can't say no to that face.

I'M A MASTER OF SHAPE SHIFTING! I CAN DISGUISE MYSELF AS A ZEPHYR, AND ***TECHNICALLY*** BE THERE WHILE GATHERING NO ATTENTION!

NO, NO. JUST GO HOME. AT LEAST THAT WAY, YOU WON'T HAVE TO SEE ME COMPLETELY EMBARRASS MYSELF AND SUBSEQUENTLY LOSE ALL RESPECT FOR ME.

POOF

shoo

YOU'RE THE BEST BOSS ***EVER!*** MERRY ANTICHRISTMAS!

DEMON FORM

AHHH LA LA LA LA

...WE HAVE TO KEEP THE ANTICHRIST IN ANTICHRISTMAS!

YES, YES, WHATEVER.

MERRY ANTICHRISTMAS

SIGH

:FLOAT:

OH, ***HELLO,*** BIFRONS. WHERE'S YOUR ASSISTANT? ***WE'VE*** BEEN TAKING BETS ON HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE FOR ***PAZUZU*** TO QUIT HER POST.

WHAT A STEP DOWN FROM WORKING WITH ***BELETH!*** SHE MUST BE BORED OUT OF HER SKULL.

ha

ha

heh

?

It's not the heat that makes Hell intolerable, or the screams of the damned.

HELLO, FURFUR.

SNICKER

Hell is other demons.

SNORT

PRUFLAS BET THAT SHE'D ONLY LAST A QUARTER MILLENNIUM.

BUT ***I*** GAVE ZUZU A GENEROUS FIVE HUNDRED YEARS. HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN, BIFRONS? FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-NINE?

GO TO ***HEAVEN,*** FURFUR.

THAT JERK...

LEAVE

HA HA HA

Grr...

HAHA

SPILL

TRANSFORM

HMPH

VIP

HOUSE RED, GUSION.

THANKS.

I SAID RED...

WHAT THE--?

FREAKIN' ***HAAGENTI*** TURNED ALL THE WINE INTO WATER.

TURN IT BACK, FER DEVIL'S SAKE!!

nyeh heh heh~

UGH. HELL IS OTHER DEMONS.

YOU'VE GOT ***THAT*** RIGHT, FRONS.

BLAH BLAH BLAH

HEY! LUCIFER!

MERRY ANTICHRISTMAS!

WAVE

blah blah

TURN

...

WE USED TO BE CLOSE, BACK IN HEAVEN. I FELL FROM GRACE JUST TO FIGHT BY HIS SIDE.

NOW LUCIFER WON'T EVEN SAY ***HELLO*** TO ME.

I USED TO BE AN ***ANGEL.*** NOW I'M JUST A TWO-BIT EARL OF HELL.

NO ONE CARES ABOUT ME.

I HATE MY LIFE.

WOW, YOU'RE ***REALLY*** SLOPPY FROM JUST DRINKING WATER...

SIKE! I TURNED IT INTO TEQUILA!!!

...SO, MAMMON!

I HAVE BEEN DOING SOME ***REALLY*** EXCITING NEW WORK. I THINK YOU'LL LOVE IT.

HM? I THOUGHT I PUT YOU ON TORTURE AND CURSED GEOMETRY TEXTBOOKS?

YES. YES, YOU DID.

I HAVE BEEN TORTURING AND WRITING CURSED TEXTBOOKS FOR THE PAST ***MILLENNIUM.***

BUT THINK ABOUT ***THIS:*** TORTURED SOULS WHO ARE PUSHED TO THE BRINK--THEY ***SNAP.*** THEY ***SPLINTER.***

AND I HAD THIS ***GREAT*** IDEA, WHERE WE CAN COMBINE THE DARKEST SPLINTERS OF THESE CURSED SOULS, AND CREATE A FOUL BEING OF ***PURE EVIL...***

...

THAT SOUNDS HARD TO PITCH TO LUCIFER.

WHY?!

CLENCH

YOU'RE OUR CURSED-GEOMETRY-TEXTBOOK GUY. IF WE WERE TO START *FRANKENSTEINING* THE SOULS OF THE DAMNED, WE'D GIVE IT TO SOMEONE LIKE...

BUER.

...WHO SPAKETH MY NAME ?!

...YOU MEAN FRANKENSTEIN'S *MONSTER.*

NO, I MEANT *VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN.*

PETTY

UGH!!!

ugh.

HUFF

YOU GIVE SO MUCH OF YOUR LIFE, YOUR ENERGY, YOUR IDEAS, YOUR VERY ESSENCE. YOU WORK YOUR FIRECLAWS TO THE BONE.

AND THEN ONE DAY YOU REALIZE THAT THE DEMONS YOU'RE TRYING SO HARD TO IMPRESS?

...YOU DON'T MATTER TO THEM AT ALL. YOU'RE *REPLACEABLE.*

DRANO + ETHANOL

GLUGG

KRK

I WOULD HAVE TAKEN A LANCE OF LONGINUS FOR LUCIFER.

AND NOW HE ONLY DEIGNS TO LIAISE THROUGH FUCKING ***MAMMON.***

MAMMON, WHO'S NEVER HAD AN ORIGINAL IDEA IN HER ***LIFE.***

MAMMON, WHO WANTS EVERYTHING ***EASY*** AND ***PROFITABLE*** AND ***BY THE BOOK*** AND ***BORING*** AND ***PREDICTABLE.***

FUCK MAMMON!!!

...

hehe

I'VE GOTTA SUMMON ZUZU. THIS IS PAINFUL TO WATCH.

=hic=

Sob Sob

DIANO MANOL

FWOOSH

APPEAR

THAT WAS FAST.

HI, GUSION. I WAS HERE ALREADY IN ZEPHYR FORM.

DON'T TELL FRONS-- HE'LL FEEL BETTER IF HE THINKS I ***DON'T*** KNOW HE HAD A HUMILIATING MELTDOWN AT THE UNHOLIDAY PARTY.

HOIST!

OKAY, LET'S GET GOING, BOSS.

MERRY ANTICHRIS

AWKWARD...

DRAND

GIVE ME A PIECE OF PARCHMENT. I NEED TO WRITE A POEM.

A SAD POEM ABOUT MY WASTED POTENTIAL.

YOU CAN WRITE IT AT HOME.

AHHH HELP

SIGH...

NO ONE BELIEVES IN ME, ZUZU.

I DO!

YOU'RE BIFRONS, AN EARL OF HELL, WITH TWENTY-SIX LEGIONS OF SPIRITS TO YOUR NAME!

THOSE SPIRITS DON'T CARE ABOUT ME. THEY'D BE JUST AS HAPPY UNDER FURFUR.

I WOULDN'T.

666

WHY AM I EVEN HERE? WHY DIDN'T I STAY IN HEAVEN?

CAREFUL, FRONS, THAT'S REVERSE BLASPHEMY.

AHHHH.

I'D PROBABLY BE AN ARCHANGEL BY NOW. INSTEAD OF A FUCKING LOSER WHO...

DEMON FORM!

HURK

BLAGH!

BLAGH!

ew

WIPE

THERE'S NO POINT LOOKING BACK, BOSS. YOU KNOW THAT.

6666

THAT'S ALL I DO. EXPLAINS WHY MY LIFE FEELS SO POINTLESS.

It was that Antichristmas Eve when the idea for the life-coaching agency was first planted. That maybe I could find redemption by helping humans via life coaching, instead of torturing their souls.

And maybe if I had enough good deeds, God in His heavenly mercy could give me a second chance.

That's why it's so important that Bifrons & Zuzu Life Coach Agency makes a difference in Scepter City. Anyway, I g2g, someone is knocking at the door (another customer, perhaps?).

Knock Knock

skritch

CLOSE my Diary

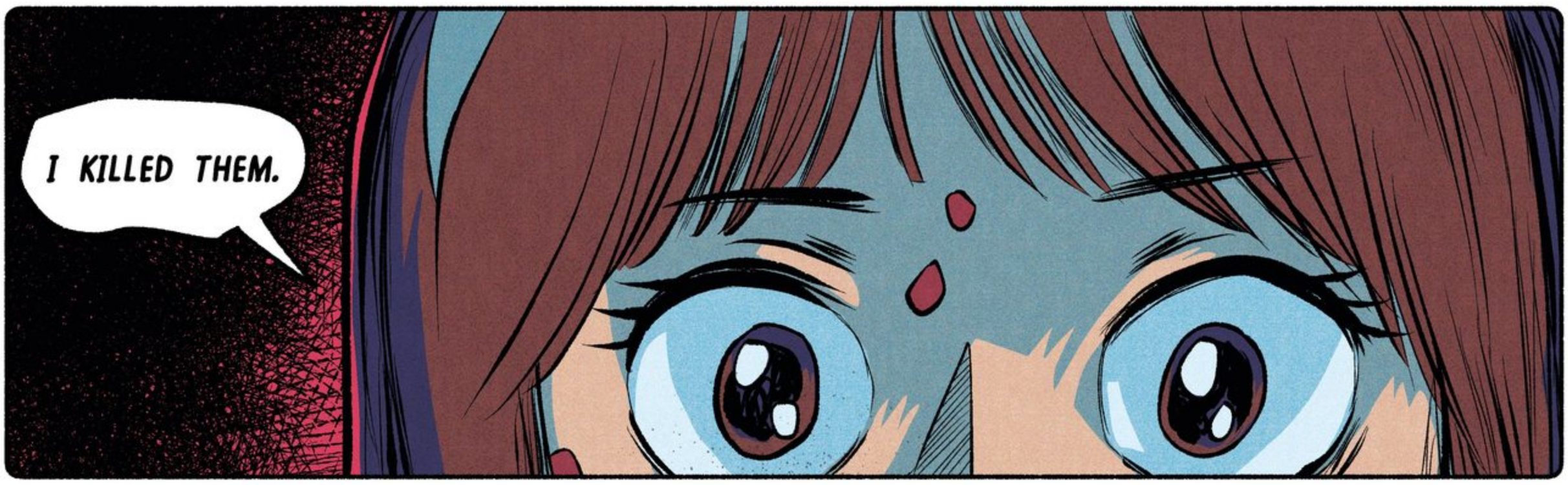
B•Z LIFE COACHING

SORRY I'M EARLY. I DID WHAT YOU SAID.

CLOSED

HUH? WENDY? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

Counting sheeple


I KILLED THEM.

FUCK.
DUN DUN DUNNN

ON SALE MARCH 4, 2026!

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"